

# WILDAF WEST AFRICA

## Newsletter

Women in Law and Development in Africa

N°19 - July 2004

### CONTENTS

#### Late news: Libya ratified the Protocol and Rwanda should do it soon

For this edition, we had a lot of information to share on what is going on in Africa, specially from our sub-region, so this July newsletter is longer than usual.

You can read an article written by Mrs Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson, coordinator of WiLDAF/FeDDAF-West Africa which is also published in the June 24<sup>th</sup> Pambazuka News which is all about a campaign for a rapid ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on the occasion of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

We wish to remind you that the Protocol is a tool which will permit to improve life of African women and increase respect for their human rights. **"Our mothers, our daughters and our sisters, including those who are rarely accustomed to demand their rights, cry for help in a meaningful silence, but are often too quickly assimilated into resignation. It depends on each person to ensure that the voice of the voiceless are finally heard by those who are responsible for the fate of African populations"** writes Mrs Adjamagbo-Johnson. It's up to all of us, men and women, to put pressure on our government so they ratify it and implement it.

Also, read about the amended Family Law in Benin, the nomination of three women as Chef de canton in Togo, some reflections about Beijing+10, CEDAW and the Millennium Development Objectives and the creation of a new coordination mechanism between women's organisations and the African Union. Mrs. Salamata Sawadogo was kind enough to give us an interview about her work and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. And don't forget our regular sections.

Have a nice reading!

Colette LELIÈVRE  
Communication Officer

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The *WiLDAF West Africa Newsletter* is also available on our website:

[www.wildaf-ao.org](http://www.wildaf-ao.org)

E-mail: [wildaf@cafe.tg](mailto:wildaf@cafe.tg)

# THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA: A CHALLENGE FOR AFRICA AND WOMEN

Article published in Pambazuka no 162 June 24<sup>th</sup> 2004

The adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government (the Conference) at the African Union (AU) meeting in Maputo in July 2003 was undeniably an important event in the history of African women's struggle for the recognition of their rights.

This Protocol, the fruits of exemplary collaboration between the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and civil society organisations, was identified as a priority for the promotion and protection of the rights of African women during a workshop in March 1995 on women's rights, organised by the Commission, in collaboration with

Women in Law and Development in Africa/Femmes, Droit et Développement en Afrique (WiLDAF/FeDDAF) and the International Commission of Jurists, based in Geneva.

The workshop recommended that a protocol on women's rights should be established and a Special Rapporteur on the rights of women should be nominated. The Conference of the former Organisation of African Unity (OAU) mandated the Commission to initiate and coordinate the process of developing a preliminary draft of the protocol. A working group was put in place to propose a text.

Since the beginning, the process has been very participatory. Civil

society organisations mobilized themselves to enrich the first version written by the working group. This mobilization increased during the process, as more and more organisations became interested in all steps of the development of the protocol. The numerous ups and downs that punctuated the process sometimes worried civil society members. The long wait between the first and the second meetings, due to successive postponement of the second one, and in the absence of a quorum, was one of the most difficult moments.

However, the lobbying efforts of civil society and the determination of the officers of the African Union responsible for the file resulted in the second meeting of experts. This was followed by a meeting of ministers implicated in the process, who succeeded in registering the on the agenda of the Council of Ministers in July 2003. Eight years

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Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa				
Only 30 States parties have signed it as of June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2004. Only Comoros and Libya have ratified it.				
WEST AFRICA	EAST AFRICA	SOUTHERN AFRICA	CENTRAL AFRICA	NORTH AFRICA
Benin	COMOROS	Lesotho	Burundi	Algeria
Burkina Faso	Djibouti	Mozambique	Congo	Libya
Côte d'Ivoire	Ethiopia	Namibia	Democratic Rep. Of Congo	
Gambia	Kenya	South Africa		
Ghana	Madagascar	Zimbabwe		
Guinea	Rwanda			
Liberia	Tanzania			
Mali	Uganda			
Nigeria				
Senegal				
Sierra Leone				
Togo				
12	8	5	3	2
Number of countries for each region				
16	13	10	9	5

To keep up to date on signatures and ratification, go to [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org) and check *Treaties, conventions and Protocols* etc. under **Official Documents** section.

## Campaign for the rapid ratification of the protocol to the ACHPR on the Rights of Women

A campaign for the urgent ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) on the Rights of Women in Africa which was adopted in Maputo, Mozambique, on July 2003 at the Heads of Government Assembly has started 10 days ago. Sign the petition in English and French on Pambazuka website.

**Petition:** [www.pambazuka.org/petition/petition.php?id=1&lang=en](http://www.pambazuka.org/petition/petition.php?id=1&lang=en)

Let us remind you that the Protocol will come into force thirty days after the deposit of the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) instrument of ratification. The process is slow, too slow. So, WiLDAF/FeDDAF appealed the African Commission and the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights at the last session of the Commission in Banjul, Gambia, to put pressure on States Parties so they ratify quickly. The WiLDAF/FeDDAF also requested that they made sure the ratification was on the agenda on the next Heads of Government Assembly which will be held in July in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## A CHALLENGE FOR AFRICA AND WOMEN

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after the beginning of the process, the protocol was thus finally adopted by Heads of State.

I relive the joy manifested by the lobby of women's organisations at the announcement of the protocol's adoption, and salute the cooperation that coalesced between certain commissioners and these women. But nobody was fooled! Once the protocol was adopted, there remained many equally important steps to take: to obtain the necessary signatures and ratifications for its entry into force and to respond to the challenge of its effective implementation.

One year on, where are we at in the process? Thirty signatures and two ratifications had been registered by 30 June 2004, less than a week before the next AU Heads of State and Government Conference. Twelve of the signatory countries are in West Africa, eight in East African and five in southern Africa. Lobbying work must continue in all the regions of Africa, particularly in Central and North Africa, where only three and two signatures, respectively, have been registered. It is important to note that we are still far, very far, from the 15 ratifications necessary for the entry into force of the protocol. And the question of its ratification must absolutely, in one way or another, be added to the agenda of the July 2004 Summit in Addis-Ababa, in the interests of women, African populations and the African Union.

### **But why is ratification of the protocol so important?**

For African women, the entry into force of the protocol will be an essential step towards the recognition of their rights, the daily violations of which are the source of immense suffering. The protocol will offer, following the example of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) a legal framework of reference, allowing diverse actors, as well as the population, to daily work towards

the effective respect of women's rights.

But, in addition to CEDAW, the legal framework of the protocol reflects specific violations to African women. Its preamble justifies the adoption of the protocol by the existence of discriminations against women and harmful traditional practices, despite commitments taken by States at regional and international levels. It also expresses leaders' formal support to the principle of equality between men and women.

In addition to these declarations, the protocol contains provisions to respond to problems as crucial as the multiple violations of rights in marital relations, violence and grave risks to the life, physical and moral integrity, and security of women and girls, the pressing reality of which we cannot deny in our societies. The entry into force of the protocol offers an invaluable framework to end violations against civilian, refugee and combatant women and children, particularly girls, in periods of conflict, and to uphold the challenge of peace in Africa, a condition *sine qua non* of development.

The fight against traditional practices harmful to the health of women and girls needs the protocol, which provides guidelines for eliminating them. Economic and social rights as vital as the right to health, including reproductive health, to education and to inheritance rights for widows and girls, which are daily transgressed out of ignorance or deliberately, would be better protected if actions taken could rely on adequate measures, such as those recommended in the protocol. Definitely, there is no doubt that, in the interests of hundreds of thousands of women and girls in Africa, the protocol on women's rights must be ratified as quickly as possible.

For African populations and societies, the absence of a legal framework of reference to fight against violations of women's

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## WOMAN OF HONOUR

### **Perdita Huston Human Rights Award for Mrs Fatoumata Traoré**

Madame Fatoumata Traoré, the winner of the Perdita Huston Human Rights Award, has spoke on Capitol Hill on May 7th about her globally recognized work to promote women's reproductive health and women's rights in Mali.

Article : [www.cedpa.org/aboutus/archive/042904.html](http://www.cedpa.org/aboutus/archive/042904.html)

Source: Africa section of OneWorld.org, [africa.oneworld.net](http://africa.oneworld.net)

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### **Title of Doctor Honoris Causa for Mrs Shirin Cziffra**

Mrs Shirin Cziffra from Mauritius recently had the title of Doctor Honoris Causa conferred upon her by the University of Paris I (Panthéon/Sorbonne) in recognition of her work to date, notably as a Minister of Justice in her country.

Source: Press release from FAS of April 2004

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### **A special on grassroots women in Geo**

Congratulation to Géo which has issued a special on grassroots women in its May 2004 edition. It demonstrates that women are actors and partners in development of the world. We welcome the initiative which normally happens only when it is officially the International Women's Day on March 8th. From Africa, the story gives honour to Radhia Nasraoui (Tunisia), Aliette Jamart (Congo), Caroline Tutin (Gabon), Claudine André (DRC), to the Avega Collective and Suzanne Uwimana (Rwanda), Maggy Barankitse (Burundi), Lucy Mullenkei et Wangari Maathai (Kenya), et Jan Goodall (Tanzania). Bravo!

## FINANCING

### **AISI Media Awards 2004**

The AISI Media Awards were introduced in 2003 to encourage more informed coverage of the information society and ICT for development issues in Africa as part of Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) Information Society Outreach and Communication Programme. The Awards are aimed at individual, journalists and media institutions based in Africa that are "promoting journalism which contributes to a better understanding of the information society in Africa". First awards were given in 2003. It will be an annual event from now on.

Deadlines: July 31<sup>st</sup> 2004

Award:

[www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.htm](http://www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.htm)

Source: Pula no 4 May 2004

## PUBLICATION

Compilation of the Decisions on Communications of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (1994 - 2001)

Compilation :

[www.africaninstitute.org/eng/comp/search.php](http://www.africaninstitute.org/eng/comp/search.php)

Source: Pambazuka, 159, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004

## A CHALLENGE FOR AFRICA AND WOMEN

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rights currently constitutes a real handicap for the optimal participation of women in the development of their countries and of Africa, even though they constitute more than 50% of the population of the continent.

Finally, the credibility of the AU, which demonstrated its commitment to promote women's participation and gender equality, notably through parity in the AU Commission and in the equitable representation of Judges of the African Court for Human and People's Rights, rests on proving its coherence and consistency by implementing the protocol without delay. By doing so, the AU and its member States will show the world that, for them also, women's rights are truly an integral part of human rights, and that they are determined to promote and protect them without any discrimination.

The imminent entry into force of the protocol will mark, in sum, a decisive step towards entrenching a culture of respect and exercise of the human rights of women in African societies. For all these reasons, every human rights defender, man or woman, should feel concerned and lobby governmental and parliamentary authorities in order to convince them to ratify the protocol on women's rights and take steps for its effective implementation.

**Our mothers, our daughters and our sisters, including those who are rarely accustomed to demand their rights, cry for help in a meaningful silence, but are often too quickly assimilated into resignation. It depends on each person to ensure that the voice of the voiceless are finally heard by those who are responsible for the fate of African populations.**

**Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson**

Coordinator of Women in Law and Development in Africa, West Africa

## Mali will soon deposit its instrument of ratification of the Protocol

The Council of Ministers of Mali has approved on June 9<sup>th</sup> the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) on the Rights of Women in Africa. The ratification has been submitted to the National Assembly to be adopted. Mali will then have to deposit its instrument of ratification at the African Union.

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## Namibian Parliament tables motion on women's rights

From the New Era of Namibia, the ruling party's Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has submitted a motion when the Parliament resumed its business last June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Source: New Era,  
[www.newera.com.na/archives.php?id=1816&date=2004-06-11](http://www.newera.com.na/archives.php?id=1816&date=2004-06-11)

Don't miss the special issue of Pambazuka on the campaign for the rapid ratification of the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Go to: [www.pambazuka.org](http://www.pambazuka.org)

**Violence  
against  
women is  
violence  
against  
society.**

## Discriminatory articles for women in the Family Law of Benin are now in conformity with the Constitution

Last June 14<sup>th</sup>, the National Assembly of Benin adopted the Family Law including articles which have been modified in accordance with the decision DCC 02-144 date December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002 of the Constitutional Court. Debates were rough<sup>1</sup>, mostly on articles on the name of a married woman and on type of marriage. Each one has been put in conformity with the Beninese Constitution after hard work from men and women which have pushed so that the Family Law adopted first in June 2002 was amended.

WiLDAF/FeDDAF-Benin network met with the Chairperson of the National Assembly, Mr IDJI Kolawolé Emmanuel, in May to make sure the amended Family Law would be on the agenda of the next parliamentary session. On this occasion, the Chairperson discussed with the delegation about the content of some articles.

After the adoption of the amended Family Law last June 14<sup>th</sup>, some articles were denigrated. To get things clearer, WiLDAF/FeDDAF-Benin held a press conference on Monday June 21<sup>st</sup> to clarify the situation and explain articles which were not well understood. On the same day, the coordinator of the network was invited on a radio show on CAPP-FM to explain work done by deputies of the National Assembly. Geneviève Boko-Nadjo, president of WiLDAF/FeDDAF-Benin network "congratulated legislators "who were keen to demonstrate that the polygamy issue was not the most important thing in the law, and their need to resolutely look toward the future they must build for their children."<sup>1</sup>

Obviously, the conformity of the Family Law with the Constitution is not well understood. WiLDAF/FeDDAF-Benin will soon start a project so the Code is made easy to understand. We all wish it will then change the perception of it and get everyone to know much how the rights of women are enshrined in the Code..

<sup>1</sup> 21 June 2004, *Polygamy somewhat out of bounds – if not out of fashion*,  
[www.ipsnews.net/africa/interna.asp?idnews=24300](http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/interna.asp?idnews=24300)

Soon you will be able to download Court Justice Decisions on [wildafo.org](http://wildafo.org) website under **Resources** section.

## SALAMATA SAWADOGO: a woman as Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights for the first time

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Right (ACHPR) has for the first time, nominated a woman as Chairperson, Mrs Salamata Sawadogo. Commissioner since 2001, she is also the Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Senegal. As a judge, she held many positions in the Burkina justice Ministry. She also involved herself in women's rights defence, namely within the Association of Women Lawyers of Burkina Faso of which she was the chairperson.

The Commission started its activities on 2 November, 1987 after the entry into force on 21 October 1986 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights establishing it (Article 30) which all African countries have ratified. The Commission meets two to three times a year for about ten days during which the commissioners report on the activities they carried out, analyse reports submitted by countries on human rights and discuss the challenges facing the implementation of the African Charter.

**WILDAF: Could you explain to us what the Commission's mission is and what its work consists of?**

**Salamata:** The eleven members of the Commission are elected by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union for a six-year term. After they have been elected, they sit as individuals; in other words they do not represent their original States. They work for the promotion and the protection of the entire States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The commissioners have to implement the missions entrusted to the Charter grouped into three main aspects: promotion, protection, interpretation of the Charter or of any other instrument relating to human rights.

The **mission of promotion** comprises the constitution of documentary base, studies and researches in the area of human rights, training and education in human rights (seminars, conferences, etc.). It may also concern giving advice or making recommendations to governments. It is obviously within this framework that the different commissioners undertake mission to countries to conduct activities and report to the commission. This also includes preparing draft bills that

can serve as basis to governments in settling problems relating to human rights. Finally, the commissioners review reports submitted by the countries on the status of human rights on their territory.

Within the framework of the **mission of protection**, the Commission can intervene in event of human rights violation according to the procedures provided by the Charter and the rules of procedures.

And the **mission of interpretation** implies that the Commission can be requested by a State Party, an African Union (AU) institution or any other organisation recognised by the AU to interpret provisions contained in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

This is an overview of the main tasks a commissioner can undertake alone or within the framework of a group work. In any case, the findings of the works are submitted to the Commission for approval to be considered as a decision emanating from it.

The Chairperson is elected among the commissioners for a two-year term renewable.

**WILDAF: Before being Chairperson, you were already Commissioner. Is there any difference between**  
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## PUBLICATION

### State of the World's Mothers 2004

The report focuses on the tens of millions of girls around the world who marry and have babies while they are still children themselves. The results are often tragic: many girls die in childbirth, even greater numbers of their babies die, and young mothers and babies who do survive often struggle to overcome poor health, limited education and grinding poverty. The report recommends ways to help girls delay marriage and motherhood until they are emotionally and physically ready to give birth and raise children. It also suggests programmatic and policy solutions to help child mothers and their babies survive and thrive. Available in PDF only.

Article:  
[www.savethechildren.org/mothers/report\\_2004/index.asp](http://www.savethechildren.org/mothers/report_2004/index.asp)  
Full report:  
[www.savethechildren.org/mothers/report\\_2004/images/pdf/SOWM\\_2004\\_final.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org/mothers/report_2004/images/pdf/SOWM_2004_final.pdf)  
Source: [www.aviva.org](http://www.aviva.org)

### Ten Highest-Risk Countries for Children having Children

1	Niger
2	Liberia
3	Mali
4	Tchad
5	Afghanistan
6	Ouganda
7	Malawi
8	Guinea
9	Mozambique
10	Central African Republic

Nine out of 10 are in Africa and 4 of them are located in West Africa.  
Source: State of the World's Mothers 2004

### Three women appointed village paramount chief in Togo

Mrs Odile Baramna Nguita and Koguelma Barandao Bakélé were appointed respectively village paramount chief of Niamtougou and Siou in the prefecture of Doufelgou in the north of Togo and Mrs Bamkasseme Adjafii in the district of Langabou. Very few women accede to this function of village paramount chief. These are positions of responsibilities as they will give a ruling on cases, do mediation and seated on the Chief Council.

Source: Togo-Presse, Thursday 13 May 2004

## PUBLICATION

### The Missing Link in Growth and Sustainable Development: Closing the Gender Gap

Paper from the Economic Commission for Africa, 24 May 2004, Kampala (Uganda). Available in PDF.

Report:  
[www.uneca.org/cfm/2004/documents/Gender%20doc.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/cfm/2004/documents/Gender%20doc.pdf)

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the two positions?

**Salamata:** While conducting as much as I can my duties as a commissioner, I must also coordinate the institution's work, answer on behalf of the latter at administrative level, conduct sessions, etc. with the support of the Secretary to the Commission.

The Article 18 of the rules of procedures provides that in the exercise of his/her function, the Chairperson shall remain under the Authority of the Commission. Hence, the need of frequent consultations between members of the Commission when it comes to taking important decisions, especially during inter-sessions.

**WILDAF:** Is it the first time that this position is being held by a woman? How do you assess your contribution to the advancement of women's rights within this institution?

**Salamata:** I was elected at the Commission in 2001 and I think that this is the first time a woman has been elected Chairperson.

At the end of my two years as Chairperson, and with the support of all and particularly of women's rights militants, I wish to contribute to the improvement of the status of women in Africa. I recall in the meantime that before joining the ACHPR, I was active chairperson until my departure as Ambassador to Dakar and I am still a member of the Association of Women Lawyers of Burkina Faso (AFJ/BF). AFJ/BF is by the way member of WILDAF/FeDDAF-Burkina Faso.

As Chairperson, I think that the advancement of women's rights in Africa is also achievable through the adherence of a great number of States to the Protocol to the

African Charter on Women's Rights. At the moment, the priority objective is its entry into force when the 15 required instruments of ratification would have been deposited. But I insist to say that we must move towards a maximum of countries ratifying this instrument so that this becomes a really Pan-African tool for the protection of women's rights.

The Commission could refer to the newly created African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights whose establishment Protocol entered into force on 25 January 2004 to examine cases of human rights violation which complement and reinforce the protection mission of the Commission (Article 2 of the Protocol on establishment of the Court).

Women's rights are fully seen as human rights. But these are still unrecognised rights and not given enough consideration in the countries of the continent, hence, the need to undertake concrete actions for the promotion and protection.

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**WILDAF/FeDDAF-West Africa was at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, Gambia**

WILDAF/FeDDAF made two statements: one on the fight against trafficking of women and children, especially girls and the second on the urgent need for African countries to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Soon, you will be able to read them on our website at [wildaf-ao.org](http://wildaf-ao.org).

## EVENT

**African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights**

36<sup>th</sup> ordinary session: 23 November to 7 December 2004

Venue: Dakar, Senegal

Commission: [www.achpr.org](http://www.achpr.org)

## GOOD WEBSITES

**You are surfing on INTERNET? Here is an interesting site!**

**Subject:** Still in construction, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women website details latest news concerning her tasks, countries visited, explain its mandate and how to deposit a complaint. It should be soon available in French and Spanish.

Language: English

Website: [www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/7/b/women](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/7/b/women)

If you know websites that members of WILDAF/FeDDAF could use in their work, don't hesitate to share this information with us!

**You are member of WILDAF/FeDDAF West African Network and wish to publicize your activities? Your initiatives? Your association?**

Send us your text (long or short, what counts is the content!) by e-mail to WILDAF West Africa to the following address: [wildaf@cafe.tg](mailto:wildaf@cafe.tg).

The deadline for the reception of the texts is: August 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 (for October 2004 issue).

**Who are the Newsletter readers?** The WILDAF West Africa Newsletter is distributed to WILDAF West Africa members in nine countries of the sub-region BUT ALSO to our partners in Africa, Europe, Scandinavian countries and America.

**For any question or comment, don't hesitate to contact us.**  
[wildaf@cafe.tg](mailto:wildaf@cafe.tg)

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A woman as a Chairperson of the Commission  
**WILDAF: Were there any complaints concerning women's rights at the Commission?**

**Salamata:** To my knowledge the Commission has not yet recorded any complaint relating to specific women's rights violation.

If need be, the procedure for seizing the Commission is easy enough and does not take any particular forms. Individuals or group of individuals, NGOs, State Parties to African Charter can seize the ACHPR for a complaint. However, provisions of the Charter set conditions for seizing the ACHPR for complaints. In order to help the people concerned, the Commission developed directives for the presentation of communications (complaints) that can be obtained from the Secretariat.

**WILDAF: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Women's Rights was adopted but has not yet been ratified and implemented. Can you, anyway, enforce the principles defined thereon?**

**Salamata:** In this case, a text can be evoked against a party and be enforceable against the said party if the latter adhered by depositing instruments for ratification at the Headquarters of African Union.

Pending its entry into force, the Commission can refer, if need be, to instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Optional Protocol to the international covenant relating to civil and political rights and to some national legislations presenting advancement as compared to the protocol.

**WILDAF: Through what process will the Commission refer it to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for examining matters of human rights violations?**

## NETWORK NEWS

### IN BENIN

The network will start a project on trafficking of children which will aim at sensibilising people on this phenomenon in areas of Atlantique, Couffo, Littoral, Mono, Oueme, Plateau and Zou. A partnership agreement was signed in last April with an American organisation, The Protection Project. The Danish Embassy agreed on supporting a project of popularization of the newly amended Family Law.

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### IN GHANA

WILDAF/FeDDAF-Ghana organised a number of activities related to the project «**Sensitisation and capacity building of judicial and extra-judicial stakeholders for the implementation of women's rights in West Africa**». A first activity was to give a presentation at the annual meeting of WILDAF/FeDDAF-Ghana in May and a talk last June. A stakeholder workshop was attended by participants to discuss about the recommendations and the results of the study. A mini-launch was held in its two offices of the Western and Volta regions. Copies of the report were sent to the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and to the Women's Caucus of Parliament. Some were sent to the Human Rights & Constitutional Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Le réseau a organisé un lancement de la synthèse dans ses deux bureaux.

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### IN TOGO

The network will soon organise an Extraordinary General Assembly. The project of «**information tools on matters of gender and reproduction health**» will start in the next months.

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### WEST AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE

Soon, the synthesis of the project «**Sensitisation and capacity building of judicial and extra-judicial stakeholders for the implementation of women's rights in West Africa**», will be available in English and French on WILDAF/FeDDAF website in the **Resources** section under **Publications**.

Invited by UNECA, Mrs Adjamagbo-Johnson, the coordinator of WILDAF/FeDDAF-WA will go at the Regional consultative meeting for national organisations on Beijing+10 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 21-23 July and she will also be part of the planning committee at the end of July for the next conference of AWID in Bangkok (Thailand) that will held in October 2005.

**Salamata:** I wish I could reserve my answer, for, I think that beyond the complementarities of the two structures recognised by the Protocol relating to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, it would be advisable to wait for the development of the rules of procedures of the Court and maybe changes in the Commission's texts in order that there is a good coordination of activities. One must bear in mind that the Court is a jurisdictional body that can, as provided in Article 33 of the Protocol, consult the Commission as and when needed.

**WILDAF: Would you add a last word for readers of this newsletter?**

**Salamata:** To the readers, I wish to emphasise that women do not claim rights belonging to men. They claim, for cause, the recognition and the enjoyment of **their rights** as human beings, stakeholders and agents of development.

A man wrote this once: «*women are claiming equality with men, they really lack ambitions*».

I think on the contrary, that they are wise because their struggle is a demanding one.

Thank you Mrs Salamata Sawadogo

### References:

ACHPR: [www.achpr.org](http://www.achpr.org)  
African Union: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

## Ghana will be the first country to be reviewed by its peers under the NEPAD

So far, eighteen countries including six from West Africa, have currently notified the Implementation Committee of NEPAD Heads of States and Governments that they wished to participate in the peer review process. Ghana will be the first country to be assessed within the framework of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)<sup>1</sup>. The support mission took place from 24 to 29 May and it was aimed at evaluating the process and the mechanism put in place by the country to prepare its plan of action and probably be assessed by the APRM Panel<sup>2</sup>.

The peer review mechanism examines good governance of countries in three aspects: effectiveness of utilities, accountability of parliament and an independence of the judiciary. For many people, this is far from being adequate to prove that a country is well governed. Good governance cannot exist if women's role in the development of a country is not ensured<sup>3</sup>. There is also the need to ensure that there is freedom of opinion and press<sup>4</sup>, an aspect that the mechanism does not intend to take into consideration.

«The African Union and NEPAD have correctly placed good governance at their centers. They both recognized that only through good governance can peace and democracy be built and the much needed development goals for the continent be realized.

...

Good governance should favour the respect of the rights of woman gender equity. It should promote human rights and reject impunity.»<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Second Pan African Conference of the Civil Society Organisations: Consolidating the Regional Agenda towards WSSD and Beyond, 17-19 July 2002, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, read on 14 June 2004, [www.nesda.kabissa.org/documents/pac2Final\\_en.pdf](http://www.nesda.kabissa.org/documents/pac2Final_en.pdf)

Finally, people still wonder about the participation of the civil society in the review. The Panel of Eminent Personalities of the APRM noted in the communiqué of 29 to 30 April 2004 that there is the need to «put a strong emphasis on finding ways to involve the civil society in the APRM at country level. The Panel noted the

## PUBLICATIONS

### Where are the girls?

From Susan Mckay and Dyan Mazurana

The study raises our awareness of the militarization of the lives of girls in fighting forces and the role they play. The authors use data gleaned from their research in Northern Uganda, Mozambique and Sierra Leone to reveal that girls in fighting forces are not, and never have been, simply "camp followers."

One purpose of this research was to gather and analyze data to better enhance the protection of war-affected children, in particular, girls in fighting forces. Within the context of Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone and Mozambique, girls in the fighting forces have suffered major human rights violations, especially gender-based violence. The rights of these girls are under threat from their own governments, armed opposition forces, and, occasionally, by members of their communities and families. At times, girls are discriminated against by local groups and officials, governments and international bodies that keep secret or are unwilling to recognize their presence, needs and rights during conflict, post-conflict, demobilization and social reintegration.

This study is addressed to all those who work in countries that are in conflict or ravaged by war, whether they are community groups or multilateral, governmental, or non-governmental organizations. Where are the girls, if they are not counted as part of the military when the time comes for disarmament, demobilization and rebuilding of societies?

Summary: [www.ichrdd.ca/english/commdoc/publications/women/Girls/execsummary.html](http://www.ichrdd.ca/english/commdoc/publications/women/Girls/execsummary.html)

### Bottom of the Barrel: Africa's Oil Boom and the Poor

By Ian Gary and Terry Lynn Karl/Catholic Relief Services

This report addresses two main questions: How can Africa's oil boom contribute to the alleviation of poverty, and what policy changes could promote the management and allocation of oil revenues in a way that will benefit ordinary Africans? The report explains why oil revenue has rarely translated into poverty alleviation, using Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, and Equatorial Guinea as examples. It then discusses efforts by different actors to make oil revenue more transparent and accountable and provides an in-depth look at the Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipeline Project. It also offers several policy recommendations.

Summary: [www.catholicrelief.org/get\\_involved/advocacy/policy\\_and\\_strategic\\_issues/oil\\_report\\_ex\\_sum.pdf](http://www.catholicrelief.org/get_involved/advocacy/policy_and_strategic_issues/oil_report_ex_sum.pdf)

Report: [www.catholicrelief.org/get\\_involved/advocacy/policy\\_and\\_strategic\\_issues/oil\\_report\\_full.pdf](http://www.catholicrelief.org/get_involved/advocacy/policy_and_strategic_issues/oil_report_full.pdf)

Source: IBP Newsletter no 20

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### Women of the World : Laws and Policies Affecting Their Reproductive Lives

An excellent publication well documented on African countries.

Francophone Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Thad.

Anglophone Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Anglophone countries: [www.reproductiverights.org/pub\\_bo\\_wowfrica.html](http://www.reproductiverights.org/pub_bo_wowfrica.html)

Francophone countries: [www.reproductiverights.org/pub\\_bo\\_wowfr.html](http://www.reproductiverights.org/pub_bo_wowfr.html)

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the importance of information dissemination to civil society and private sector both at the national and continental levels». However, we are not told how this wishful thinking will be achieved.

Apart from Ghana, the West African countries that will receive a delegation are Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin.

<sup>1</sup> The 10<sup>th</sup> HSGIC Meeting, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004, [www.touchtech.biz/nepad/files/documents/148.pdf](http://www.touchtech.biz/nepad/files/documents/148.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The African Peer Review Mechanism support mission to Ghana, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004, [www.iss.co.za/AF/ReqOrg/nepad/aprm/ghanamay04.pdf](http://www.iss.co.za/AF/ReqOrg/nepad/aprm/ghanamay04.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Latigo, Alfred, 2004. *The missing link in Growth and Sustainable Development: Closing the Gender Gap*. An Issues Paper, Economic Commission for Africa (May), read on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2004, [www.uneca.org/fr/conferenceofministers/cma2004/Gender%20doc\\_FRE.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/fr/conferenceofministers/cma2004/Gender%20doc_FRE.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Press release of the International Press Institute (IPI), May 18<sup>th</sup> 2004, [www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=5581&ThisURL=/nepad.asp&URLName=NEPAD](http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=5581&ThisURL=/nepad.asp&URLName=NEPAD).

<sup>5</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2004, [www.nepad.org/documents/150.pdf](http://www.nepad.org/documents/150.pdf).

# Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children in Africa

Trafficking in human beings is increasingly understood as a major and worldwide human rights violation and development issue. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre new *Insight Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children in Africa* shows the growing acknowledgement of the problem in Africa. The study, covering 53 countries African countries, provides an analysis of the patterns, root causes, and existing national and regional normative frameworks and policy responses to it.

In Africa at least 49% countries acknowledge the existence of the problem that requires effective action, targeted programs and strategies, and cooperation between African Countries. The number of countries reporting trafficking in children is two times the number of countries reporting trafficking in women.

89% of African countries are affected by trafficking flows to and from other countries within Africa, in 34% of African countries trafficking is also to Europe, and in 26% flows are directed to Middle East.

In Africa there is no clear cut distinction between countries of origin and destination and in 58% of countries flows are in both directions.

Within Africa trafficking has mainly a sub regional dimension, occurring between countries of the same sub-region in 91% of cases.

Trafficking is a dynamic process and context can rapidly change the pattern of flows.

## Root Causes

Poverty is not the only pushing factor. Root causes of trafficking are complex and often interrelated. Armed conflict, pattern of instability, oppression and discrimination place women and children at great risk. Traditional practices, early marriage and lack of birth registration may exacerbate the problem.

The demand plays a fundamental role. Sexual and economic exploitation are the most important 'pull factors'. The demand for young girls for prostitution or early marriage and the conflict related demand for child soldiers are important. The links between

trafficking and demand for adoption must also be investigated further. There is anecdotal information on trafficking of organs. Still little research exists on the traditional practices of 'mutti killings' for child organs to be used in rituals of witchcraft and magic.

## Policies Responses and Legal Framework in Africa

In Africa positive government initiatives at a regional and national level have been directed against trafficking in human beings. At the continental level the African Charter of Human Rights (1981), the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Union), and at the regional level the Libreville Common Platform for Action 2000 and the ECOWAS Declaration and Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2001 (both regarding exclusively West Africa) are the most important initiatives that, together with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), directly address the problem of trafficking in Africa. The adoption of the *Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings* developed in the framework of the EU/Africa Summit will be an important step.

Still too few African countries have ratified the main International instruments against trafficking in human beings. Some African countries have started the process of harmonization of their national legislation and have recognized the importance of a human rights approach to the problem of trafficking and acknowledged its repercussions on the development of the child and

consequently on the national and regional development. African countries need to increase the efforts and to work in close cooperation with one another in order to build a protective environment for children and to prevent and protect from trafficking.

## UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre Calls for:

- The adoption of the *Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings* developed in the framework of the planned EU/Africa Summit.
- The formulation in Africa of comprehensive, integrated counter-trafficking measures targeted at multiple levels within society, taking into consideration that each country presents specific factors and patterns and also the rapidly changing environment that can alter trafficking patterns at local and international level.
- Stronger commitments of African governments to the promotion and protection of the human rights of actual and potential trafficking victims, in a gender-based approach and in respect of the best interest of the child.
- Further research and collaboration among stakeholders.

Report:

[www.unicef.org/media/files/insight8\\_e.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/insight8_e.pdf)

Source:

[www.unicef.org/media/files/innocenti\\_trafficking.doc](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/innocenti_trafficking.doc)

## Further informations:

Declaration of Yamoussoukro, January 2002, Côte d'Ivoire: [www.crin.org/docs/resources/publications/Declaration\\_Yamoussoukro.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/publications/Declaration_Yamoussoukro.pdf) (in French only)

Summary of a report on trafficking of children between Benin and Gabon:

[www.antislavery.org/archive/other/trafficking-benin-synopsis.htm](http://www.antislavery.org/archive/other/trafficking-benin-synopsis.htm)

## Documents available in our website:

Programme Plan for Fight Against child Trafficking

Joint ECOWAS/UNODCCP/CICP Regional Meeting of Experts on Trafficking in Persons, December 2002

Draft Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children, 28 November 2002, Burkina Faso

**Definition of trafficking:** mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (Article 3 of the Additional protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children).

## Important international tools to fight against trafficking:

- *Optional Protocol to Prevent, Punish and Suppress Trafficking in Persons* (in force since 25<sup>th</sup> December 2003)
- *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* (in force since 18<sup>th</sup> January 2002)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

## The first judges for the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights will be nominated at the next Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU

Heads of States of the African Union should announced the first nominations of judges for the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights at the next Assembly which is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6 to 8 July. The Protocol creating the Court entered into force on 25th January 2004 after the deposit of the 15th instrument of ratification. Each State partie which has ratified it was able to propose up to 10 June three candidates.

Noted that article 14 of the Protocol states that: paragraph 2: The Assembly shall ensure that in the court as a whole there is representation of the main regions of Africa and of their principal legal traditions and paragraph 3: In the election of the judges, the Assembly shall ensure that there is adequate gender representation.

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### Follow-up on the Protocol to the treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament

Still no change since 18 March 2004. Forty six countries have ratified it. It is in force since December 14<sup>th</sup> 2003.

### Follow-up on the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council

Still no change since 26 March 2004. 47 countries out of the 53 have signed the Protocol and 32 of them have deposited their instruments of ratification.

African Union: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

## EVENT

### 49<sup>th</sup> session of Commission on the Status of Women 2005

Date: 28 February to 11 March 2005

Venue: New York

Source: [daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=E/CN.6/2004/L.8&Lang=E](http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=E/CN.6/2004/L.8&Lang=E)

## PUBLICATION

### Shadow report of Algeria for CEDAW Committee

Written in 1999 and edited in 2003 by International Women's Human Rights Clinic and WLUML (Women Living Under Muslim Laws). Available in PDF and RTF.

Publications of North of Africa:

[www.wluml.org/french/publistregional.shtml?cmdf\[45\]=c-1-North%20Africa](http://www.wluml.org/french/publistregional.shtml?cmdf[45]=c-1-North%20Africa) (in French only)

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Did you know that you can receive news by email which would inform you on African and international news and about interesting resources?

We recommend Toile d'elles, a monthly newsletter in French which disseminates African information on gender issues and ICT:

Toile d'elles: [fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/Toiledelles](http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/Toiledelles)  
To subscribe: [Toiledelles-subscribe@yahoogroupes.fr](mailto:Toiledelles-subscribe@yahoogroupes.fr)

Pambazuka for African news: [www.pambazuka.org](http://www.pambazuka.org)  
To subscribe: [editor@pambazuka.org](mailto:editor@pambazuka.org)

Of course, try our WiLDAF West Africa Newsletter: [www.wildaf-ao.org](http://www.wildaf-ao.org). Our electronic list will soon be automated. In between, write to us and we will subscribe you soon: [wildaf@cafe.tg](mailto:wildaf@cafe.tg).

### Follow-up on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

177 countries have ratified the Convention, including Swaziland, as of 26 March 2004. Country reports of Equatorial Guinea and Angola should be examined at the 31<sup>st</sup> session which is scheduled on 6 to 23 of July at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

On ratifications: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm)  
31<sup>st</sup> session: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/31sess.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/31sess.htm)

### Follow-up on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW

The optional protocol is a mechanism which gives the opportunity to individuals and organisations to deposit complaints on violations of their rights in State Parties which have ratified it. The committee can also investigate on its own. Up to 3 February 2004, only 75 countries have signed, twelve (12) from Africa. Of the 60 States parties which have ratified, only three African countries did it. They are Mali, Namibia and Senegal. There is still 58 instruments of ratification missing to entry into force.

On ratifications: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/sigop.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/sigop.htm)  
A good text published by WHRnet: [www.whrnet.org/docs/issue-cedaw1.html](http://www.whrnet.org/docs/issue-cedaw1.html)

Resource: International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia Pacific, [www.iwraw-ap.org](http://www.iwraw-ap.org)

### Follow-up on the amendment of article 20 paragraph 1 of CEDAW

The Committee is very late on the evaluation process of country reports sent by States Parties. In order to diminish the delay, the Committee is proposing to meet more often. Article 20 paragraph 1 which deals with work session states that the "Committee shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually...". It was amended and adopted first by the then States parties to the Convention on 22 May 1995 and by the General Assembly on 22 December 1995. The amendment of article 20 paragraph 1 replaces the text above with "The duration of the meetings of the Committee shall be determined by a meeting of the States parties to the present Convention, subject to the approval of the General Assembly." In order to achieve legally binding force, this amendment needs to be ratified by 2/3, which means 118 of the 177 States parties. As of 15 June 2004, only 44 States parties have done so. In Africa, only six countries have accepted the amendment and they are Egypt, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius and Niger.

Soon, you will be able to take a look at the list of countries which have accepted the amendment on [www.wildaf-ao.org](http://www.wildaf-ao.org).

### Other information:

CEDAW text and the Optional Protocol to the Convention are available in DOC and PDF: [www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/ress\\_iii.htm](http://www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/ress_iii.htm)

« CEDAW made easy » is available in DOC and PDF format: [www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/ress\\_i.htm](http://www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/ress_i.htm)

The Optional Protocol to CEDAW and its applicability «on the ground»: [www.whrnet.org/docs/issue-cedaw1.html](http://www.whrnet.org/docs/issue-cedaw1.html)

## Beijing +10, CEDAW and MDG: Globalising Women's Rights

WIDE is a European organisation whose mission is to monitor and influence international economic and development policy and practice from a feminist perspective. It is organising a conference every year in line with its mission and the title of the one held in May was 'Globalising Women's Rights: Confronting Unequal Development between the Un Rights Framework and the WTO Trade Agreements'.

WILDAF/FeDDAF-West Africa attended this conference to share its views on globalisation and Beijing+10 as well as discuss and get acquainted with what women organisations have achieved since Beijing+5. The regional WILDAF/FeDDAF also decided that Beijing+10 was a priority in its 2004-2005 strategic planning and globalisation is a challenge that will certainly be discussed there. We therefore attended and participated in the workshops which dealt with Beijing+10, CEDAW and the Millennium Development Goals.

The issue of participating or not in Beijing+10 was often raised in the discussions. A consensus was reached on the fact that women's movements could not opt out from the process. But this did not also mean participating in this process without questioning it. On the contrary, there is a need to review and criticise the existing instruments relating to women's rights, to detail what every one has to offer and then to use them more actively. The Beijing platform is not perfect but its gains should be consolidated. It is also important to be critical about the platform and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which will be also reviewed in 2005.

Beijing+10 and MDG+5 could be the opportunity to revitalise women's movements and to restore our own agenda on our priorities. The criticism of one another could help set out the impacts of neo-liberal economic paradigm on women and the inconsistencies between the MDG and international instruments. Besides, the two processes avail women's movements the opportunity to question their respective governments on what they have achieved under their commitments.

Many deplore the energy and time required for the research and the drafting of the alternative reports submitted by NGOs during such review and for the committees such as the one of CEDAW. Not because it is useless but that resources are scarce and many wonder about the actual action capability of the United Nations for example. Some organisations

rather suggest that the energies are channelled into analysing the agreements that governments sign and the national plans such as those relating to the Beijing platform, ascertain how their implementation was achieved and strive to make each government accountable. It was also suggested that concrete examples are used, such as the reduction of social services in the North or the challenges of the earth in the South, to question the actual implementation of instruments such as CEDAW.

During all the conference, there was a serious criticism about the pressure exerted on countries in the South to concretise the MDG whose objectives are at variance with the reforms imposed by the IMF and the World Bank, namely at the level of the PRSP which are far from being neutral as far as the impacts on women are concerned<sup>1</sup>.

Budgeting according to gender in the North and in the South is a promising strategy and which could justify increasing demands for financial support and resources for women and organisations which represent them. The latter face great difficulty in developing and following-up their own projects because of reduction of cooperation and development budgets both in the North and in the South. They are competing to receive a little share of the increasingly small cake. It was also observed that gender mainstreaming has often resulted in the further reduction of their share.

### Regional consultative meeting for national NGO on Beijing+10

The meeting is organised by the Economic Commission for Africa through its Africa Center for Gender and Development. The objectives are to draft a plan of action for the preparation of the NGO meeting on Beijing+10 in November, to put up strategies to find resources and to elect a committee of organisation of this forum.

The Forum is planned from 22 to 26 November 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On many occasions, it has been said that women's organisations must form diversified alliances to reinforce their actions. And specially, that women's movements must have their own forum of discussion, separate from the United Nations, in order to put forward their own agenda. It was therefore a matter of developing links with for instance, World March of Women or AWID which are already established structures promoting dialogue and sharing of information.

Source: Excerpt of WIDE's report

<sup>1</sup> Randriamaro, Zo, 2004. *Hidden agendas: Gender and economic reforms in Africa*. In *Seeking Accountability on Women's Human Rights*. Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (January). P. 18-20.

The United Nation General Assembly will organise a meeting in New York in 2005 to evaluate results from the Millennium Summit of 2000. The practical details will be decided next September: [www.un-ngls.org/millennium\\_development\\_goals.htm](http://www.un-ngls.org/millennium_development_goals.htm)

Source: Toile d'elles, June 2004, [www.famafrique.org](http://www.famafrique.org)

**Violence  
against women  
is violence  
against  
society.**

## A Steering committee between AU and women's organisations

A steering committee to serve as a coordinating mechanism have been set up between women's organisations, particularly networks, and the African Union (AU) at a meeting in Johannesburg (South Africa) last 21-24 June. This was a request formulated at the Pre-Summit in Maputo in July 2003 and then at the strategic planning meeting hosted by FEMNET in Nairobi (Kenya) in October 2004. This interface mechanism is meant to be used as a technical task force which will collaborate with AU, NEPAD and other organs about gender issues. This mechanism was urgent because AU is setting up new organs in which voices of women should be heard. The Steering Committee is composed of FAS, FEMNET, WILDAF/FeDDAF, ALF, FAWE, Akina Mama, Equality Now, Amarite, Accord, GENTA and FERFAP. Soon, two other organisations will be solicited, one French one in West Africa and another one in North Africa. Domains of intervention are good governance, human rights, trade, media and peace keeping.

On that committee, WILDAF/FeDDAF will take the lead on issues on human rights including the Protocol. The plan is also to replicate the Coordinating Mechanism at sub-regional level. The first meeting is scheduled to take place in September 2004.

### Maputo Declaration:

Word: [www.wildaf-ao.org/docs/word/press/Maputo2003\\_Declaration.Women.ENG.doc](http://www.wildaf-ao.org/docs/word/press/Maputo2003_Declaration.Women.ENG.doc)

PDF: [www.wildaf-ao.org/docs/word/press/Maputo2003\\_Declaration.Women.ENG.pdf](http://www.wildaf-ao.org/docs/word/press/Maputo2003_Declaration.Women.ENG.pdf)

## - NEWS FLASH - NEWS FLASH -

### Ghana: Osu Young Women's Radio Project

Community Media For Development worked with a group of young women to develop a series of HIV/AIDS radio messages, with accompanying activity books for literacy groups. The audio programmes were reproduced on CD and cassette and distributed free of charge to radio stations and literacy groups in Ghana. In creating the messages the group discussed HIV/AIDS in general as well as issues that young women face that are often different from their male peers.

Article:

[www.comminit.com/africa/pds092003/sld-1306.html](http://www.comminit.com/africa/pds092003/sld-1306.html)

Source: Drum Beat, 245

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### Kenya: Campaign against FGM

E-Solidarity is a project to fight Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for the rural Maasai women in Kenya. It is a humanitarian initiative aiming at eliminating FGM which is harmful for the health and well being of women and which goes against human rights. Help to continue this project by putting a link on your website and by financing activities through the selling of traditional jewellery.

Go to: [www.e-solidarity.org](http://www.e-solidarity.org)

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### Liberia: UNMIL's Crackdown on Trafficking Puts Women at Risk

In Liberia, crime has returned with vigor after the civil war. In addition to

street crime and burglary, there are increasing reports of Ukrainian and Moroccan women being trafficked into Monrovia to serve as prostitutes in popular bars that double as brothels. The UN Mission in Liberia, UNMIL, says it is taking the problem seriously. UNMIL's Civilian Police (CIVPOL) has hired an officer to address human trafficking. However, by not coordinating her efforts with NGOs and other supporting organizations, her independent actions may actually be exacerbating the problem.

Article:

[www.refugeesinternational.org/cgi-bin/ri/bulletin?bc=00818&spotlight=1](http://www.refugeesinternational.org/cgi-bin/ri/bulletin?bc=00818&spotlight=1)

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### Liberia: Liberian Women Demand Full Participation in Country's Reconstruction

At a National Women's Conference on peace and socioeconomic recovery convened on Liberia's Unification Day on 14 May 2004, women made a strong call for full participation in rebuilding their country. Women make up 51 per cent of Liberia's population and 75 per cent of the agricultural work force. They remain significantly underrepresented, however, in the political and socioeconomic arenas. As a result of more than two decades of violent conflict, when women and children were main targets of abuse, many now live in desperate conditions in refugee and internally displaced camps.

Article:

[www.unifem.org/pressreleases.php?f\\_page\\_pid=6&f\\_pritem\\_pid=167](http://www.unifem.org/pressreleases.php?f_page_pid=6&f_pritem_pid=167)

Source: UNIFEM Currents, May-June 2004

(continued on page 13)

### Websites of organisations which will be part of the committee:

Africa Leadership Forum: [www.africaleadership.org](http://www.africaleadership.org)

African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD): [www.accord.org.za/web.nsf](http://www.accord.org.za/web.nsf)

African Women's Development and Communication Network, (FEMNET): [www.femnet.or.ke](http://www.femnet.or.ke)

Akina Mama wa Africa: [www.akinamama.org](http://www.akinamama.org)

Equality Now: [www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)

Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS): [www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org)

Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE): [www.fawe.org](http://www.fawe.org)

Gender and Trade Network Africa (GENTA): [www.igtan.org/Africa/Africa.htm](http://www.igtan.org/Africa/Africa.htm)

WILDAF/FeDDAF West Africa sub-regional office: [www.wildaf-ao.org](http://www.wildaf-ao.org)

WILDAF/FeDDAF: [site.mweb.co.zw/wildaf](http://site.mweb.co.zw/wildaf)

## - NEWS FLASH - NEWS FLASH - NEWS FLASH -

(continued from page 12)

### **Sierra Leone: A series of indictments under the Special Court for Sierra Leone were handed out this week on charges of crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law**

The Special Court was established by an Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone under Security Council resolution 1315 (2000). A series of indictments under the Special Court for Sierra Leone were handed out on charges of crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law. Notably, there is a case of forced marriage against Santigie Borbor Kanu (Case No. SCSL-2004-016) who is indicted of war crime and sexual violence.

Website of the Special Court:  
[www.sc-sl.org](http://www.sc-sl.org)

Source: Human Strategies for Human Rights (HSHR) list, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2004  
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### **Togo: Children suffer multiple forms of abuse**

A study just completed in Togo has revealed high levels of child abuse in the West African state. Almost 370 men, women and children were surveyed for the study, which found instances of paedophilia, illegal child labour, trafficking – and discrimination against children who were disabled, or from certain ethnic groups.

Of the 181 children interviewed, 98.9 percent said they had suffered physical abuse – or been forced to perform hard physical labour.

The research was done by the Togolese branch of the African Network for Child Protection and the Prevention of Negligence and Abuse (APPCAN) between September 2003 and March 2004. APPCAN issued its findings in a report published Mar. 31, which highlighted four main forms of mistreatment: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and parental neglect.

For more information on I'APPCAN: [www.anppcan.org](http://www.anppcan.org)

Article :  
[www.ipsnews.net/africa/interna.asp?i\\_dnews=23187](http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/interna.asp?i_dnews=23187)  
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### **Zimbabwe Launches National Gender Policy**

Zimbabwe used the occasion of International Women's Day to launch its National Gender Policy. Developed in collaboration with UNIFEM, the Zimbabwe Gender

Forum and UNDP Zimbabwe, the policy will facilitate gender mainstreaming in all sectors of the economy and government to promote gender equality and redress historical gender imbalances.

For more information, Nomcebo Manzini:  
[nomcebo.manzini@undp.org](mailto:nomcebo.manzini@undp.org)  
Source: UNIFEM Currents April 2004  
\*\*\*\*\*

### **Southern Africa: Women take on the old boys club**

As democracy is finding its feet across the Southern African region, the importance of women in society is gaining increasing recognition. ACTSA speaks to three women MPs from different Southern African countries, notably the Tanzanian Mrs Gertrude Mongela, MP and President of the Pan-African Parliament.

Article :  
[www.actsa.org/News/features/010504\\_democracy.htm](http://www.actsa.org/News/features/010504_democracy.htm)  
\*\*\*\*\*

### **West Africa: I am a Child but I have my Rights too!**

"I am a child but I have my rights too!" is a radio programme produced by children and aired across West Africa. Broadcast since 1998, the show informs parents, children, and authorities about their roles and responsibilities to respect children's rights. The radio campaign project is broadcast in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Togo, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and Benin.

Article:  
[www.comminit.com/africa/pds092003/sld-999.html](http://www.comminit.com/africa/pds092003/sld-999.html)

Source: The Drum Beat – 250  
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### **Meeting on budgetary transparency in Africa**

Researchers of civil society organisations from ten African countries participated in a second meeting in Pretoria, South Africa from 8 to 10 October 2003, to discuss the development of their research in budgetary participation and transparency. The study was conducted by the African Budget Project of the South African information service, which is part of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA). The research work will use an examination of the case study conducted by Idasa to give a directive to the process, and a global questionnaire drawn up by the International Budget Project (IBP). The researchers intend to publish the findings of this survey in July 2004.

The project is a follow-up to a previous survey in which Idasa

included five countries: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia. Early in the year, five other countries from the same continent joined the survey: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Namibia and Uganda. The researchers will use the methodology developed by Idasa relating to project monitoring as well as a global questionnaire designed by IBP.

For further information, please contact Pamela Gomez,  
[gomez@cbpp.org](mailto:gomez@cbpp.org)  
Source: Bulletin de l'IBP no 18  
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### **International: NGOs Prepare for 4th Anniversary of Resolution 1325**

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security is in the early stages of planning an alternative or shadow report, entitled "Four Years On," meant to complement the UN report and highlight NGO activity on Resolution 1325, and to provide a critical analysis of UN and governmental work to implement Resolution 1325 to date. An NGO questionnaire is currently in production, and will be featured on [PeaceWomen.org](http://PeaceWomen.org).

Source: UNIFEM Currents, May-June 2004  
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### **International: Efforts against child labour often overlook domestic workers**

The widespread use of children as domestic servants is one of the most hidden forms of child labour, and one that leaves millions of children, mostly girls, at risk of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking, UNICEF said today.

"Millions of girls are trapped in poorly paid jobs as domestic servants," UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said, marking World Day Against Child Labour. "Not only are these children forced to work long, hard hours but they are at increased risk of sexual abuse and being trafficked within and across borders."

Article:  
[www.unicef.org/media/media\\_21576.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_21576.html)

## IMPORTANT DATE

### July 31<sup>st</sup>: Day of African Women

# EVENTS

## **The WIELD 1st Annual African Women's Leadership Conference, Building Bridges: New Partnership for Transformational Leadership**

An international leadership conference to promote women and girls' inclusion and active participation in leadership in Africa and the African diasporas.

Deadlines to submit papers: July 15, 2004

Notification of acceptance: August 1, 2004.

Venue: Cape Town, South Africa

Date: September 27-30, 2004

Papers should be submitted to WIELD Program Coordinator

Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment (WISE), P.O. Box CT 5604, Cantonments, Accra, Ghana, Email: [awlc2004@yahoo.com](mailto:awlc2004@yahoo.com)

Phone: +233 21 781 003 Fax: +233 21 775 998

Conference: [www.wise-up.org/wise\\_SAConference.htm](http://www.wise-up.org/wise_SAConference.htm)

Source: African Information society Initiative list [aisi-l@lyris.bellanet.org]

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### **Gender and Media (GEM) Summit**

Gender Links and the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) will be hosting this conference which will facilitate the formation of a regional network- the Southern African Media and Gender Network.

The Summit is a forum for the Networks to evaluate what changes have occurred during the last year and what strategies need to be developed to keep the momentum going. While the Summit was born out of a regional initiative, global participation and sharing of experiences will be very welcome. The objectives of the Summit are: To show case innovation, research and best practice in gender and the media in Southern Africa and globally. An important objective of the Summit is to showcase best practices. Priority will be given to participants who have best practices to present at the Summit, as well as those qualifying for awards. Criteria for both will shortly be publicized on the GL and MISA websites.

GL and MISA have raised limited sponsorship for travel and accommodation for participants from the region. This will be awarded on the basis of need and demonstration of value added to summit proceedings. GL will also assist those who do not receive sponsorship to access safe and affordable accommodation in Johannesburg.

Venue: Johannesburg, South Africa

Date: 12-15 September 2004

#### **Information :**

Kubi Rama

Phone: +27 11 622 2877

Fax: +27 11 622 4732

Email: [kubi@genderlinks.org.za](mailto:kubi@genderlinks.org.za) or [jennifer@misa.org](mailto:jennifer@misa.org)

Gender Links: [www.genderlinks.org.za](http://www.genderlinks.org.za)

MISA: [www.misa.org](http://www.misa.org)

Source: [genderlinks.org.za/newsitem.asp?nid=1](http://genderlinks.org.za/newsitem.asp?nid=1)

### **Training Course on Ageing in Africa**

This 5-day training course aims to provide a broad and up-to-date understanding of the issues of ageing in Africa. It intends to offer participants an opportunity to be equipped with the necessary skills to deliver better services to older people.

Contact: [helpage@helpage.co.ke](mailto:helpage@helpage.co.ke)

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

Date: August 2-6 2004

#### **Information:**

[www.comminit.com/events\\_cal/2004/2728-event.html](http://www.comminit.com/events_cal/2004/2728-event.html)

Source: DB classified, May 4th 2004

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### **African International Youth Summer Camp for Young Activists**

This summer camp programme will aim to provide participants with the opportunity to meet with other young people from around the world to see development in practice, discuss issues, develop collaborations and make contacts that will continue beyond the Summer School.

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

Date: August 22-28 2004

#### **Information:**

[www.comminit.com/events\\_cal/2004/2658-event.html](http://www.comminit.com/events_cal/2004/2658-event.html)

Contact: [summercampkenya@yahoo.com](mailto:summercampkenya@yahoo.com)

Source: DB classified, 1 June 2004

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### **Communicating Management of HIV/AIDS in the Community**

This course will examine strategies to improve the quality of life of people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS. It will also explore how to increase the community capacity to cope with HIV/AIDS and the ability of participants to build a broad institutional capacity in response to it.

Venue: Mazabuka, Zambia

Date: Aug8-28 August 2004

Contact: [ndiritucw@ratn.org](mailto:ndiritucw@ratn.org)

#### **Information:**

[www.comminit.com/events\\_cal/2004/2593-event.html](http://www.comminit.com/events_cal/2004/2593-event.html)

Source: DB classified, May 4th 2004

## **WILDAF WEST AFRICA**

# **Newsletter**

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Fax: (228) 222-73-90

**[www.wildaf-ao.org](http://www.wildaf-ao.org)**

**E-mail: [wildaf@cafe.tg](mailto:wildaf@cafe.tg)**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> African Social Forum**

Venue: Zambia

Date: December 2004

Source: Pula no 4 Mai 2004

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### **World Social Forum (WSF) 2005**

Venue: Porto Alegre, Brazil

Date: 26-31 January 2005

Registration of workshops and conferences starting August 2004.

#### **Information:**

[www.forumsocialmundial.org.br](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br)

The WSF 2006 will probably be organised in Africa, maybe Egypt.

Source: WIDE - News no 3/2004

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### **World Summit on Information Society**

Venue: Tunis, Tunisia

Date: 16-18 November 2004

Information: [www.itu.int/wsis](http://www.itu.int/wsis)

NGO Gender Caucus: [www.genderit.org](http://www.genderit.org)

Civil Society Gender Caucus:

[www.wougnet.org/WSIS/wsisgc.html](http://www.wougnet.org/WSIS/wsisgc.html)